

REMARKS

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended for clarity, and to obviate the objection to claim 1 set forth in the Office Action. Claims 15-30 have been added to provide applicants with the protection to which they are deemed entitled. Claims 15-30 are similar to claims 1-14, but do not include means plus function language and, therefore, do not fall within the narrow interpretation frequently associated with 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6.

All claims pending in the application are patentable over Smith et al., U.S. Patent 5,455,409 in view of Ruppert et al. U.S. Patent 5,640,002. Claim 1, upon which claims 2-13 depend, defines a hand holdable portable reader device including a trigger device configured to print human readable indicia determined by at least some of the data signals received from the receiver means onto a print media. Claim 14 defines a hand-holdable portable reader device for reading the data from a memory device on a data storage device, wherein the portable reader device includes current means operable under control of a processor means for printing a label in response to a user command signal input activated by a keypad data entry means, wherein the label includes at least some of the data read from the memory device to the storage device. New claim 15, upon which claims 16-25 depend, defines a hand holdable portable reader for reading data stored in a memory structure attached to a housing having a data storage structure and an emitter of data signals including information indicative of at least one of the housing and data stored in the memory structure, wherein the reader includes a printer for printing onto a print medium at least some of the information in human readable form. New claim 26, directed to a hand holdable portable reader for reading data from a memory structure on a data storage structure in a housing includes a printer adapted to be operated under control of a processor for printing a label adapted to be attached to the housing in response to a user input command supplied to a keypad. The printer is adapted to be

activated so the label includes in the user readable format information included in at least some of the data read from the memory structure.

The foregoing elements define a patentable combination over Smith et al. in combination with Ruppert et al. In this regard, Smith et al. has no disclosure of a printer. In other words, Smith et al. has no indication of the structure which performs the printing which is offhandedly mentioned in column 8, line 24. In fact, Smith et al. discloses a system very similar to that described in the background portion of the present application and which has the numerous problems associated with that background art, as described in the application as filed on page 3, line 14-page 5, line 12.

Applicants cannot agree that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the Smith et al. apparatus for storing and monitoring plural articles that includes an entire computer system and does not include portable handheld reader devices, as defined in claims 1-26, in view of Ruppert et al. Ruppert et al. discloses a portable RF identification tag and bar code reader including a printer. However, it is not at all clear how such a portable RF ID tag bar code reader would be used with the Smith et al. apparatus. Applicant notes that Smith et al. discloses a hand-holdable programmer 500 for programming the electronic erasable programmable read-only memories (EPROMs) of microcontrollers 300. However, Smith et al. did not consider the problems associated with printing the labels at a remote location, as set forth in the previously mentioned Background portion of the present application. It remained for applicants to realize that a more efficient and effective arrangement for printing the labels would be attained by employing a portable handheld unit with a printer.

The Examiner, in making the combination, has relied on hindsight. He has basically cast around to find individual bits and pieces of applicants' claimed device. There is nothing in the art of record which would cause one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references. Consequently,

claims 1-26 are clearly patentable over the combination of Smith et al. and Ruppert et al.

New method claim 27, upon which claims 28-30 depend, is also clearly allowable over the art of record. Claim 27 is directed to a method of enabling personnel to determine information about data stored in a memory structure of a housing having a data storage structure storing signals indicative of the information. The method comprises the steps of carrying by hand a hand holdable portable reader for the signals stored by the data storage. The hand holdable portable reader is required to include a printer. The data storage structure is required to be inserted into a port of the portable reader. While the data storage structure is inserted into the port the reader is caused to read the storage signals indicative of the information from the data storage structure. The printer of the reader is caused to print a label in human readable form in response to the storage signals read by the reader. The printed label including the information in human readable form is required to be attached to the housing.

Dependent method claims 28-30 add additional features to claim 27. In particular, claim 28 requires the method of claim 27 to be used with a reader having a display and a key pad for tactile operation by a user of the reader. The method further comprises causing the display to display to the user the information in human readable form in response to tactile operation of the key pad by the user.

Claim 29 requires the method of claim 28 to further comprise causing the display to display to the user a message requesting the user to selectively activate the printer to print the label after the display has displayed the information; the user responds to the message by tactile activating the key pad.

Claim 30 further indicates that the method of claim 27 requires the reader to include a display and a key pad for tactile operation by a user of the reader, wherein the method further

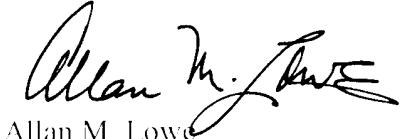
comprises causing the display to display to the user the information in human readable form and causing the display to display to the user a message requesting the user to selectively activate the printer to print the label after the display has displayed the information.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and deemed in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 22, 2003
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